

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 OMB-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 DRC-01 /154 W  
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O R 311152Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6494

INFO AMEMBSSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUFHBGGXAMMBASSY LUXEMBOURG GWETP

AMEMBASSY OSLO

MEMBASSY OTTAWA )48)

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TH HGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 2735

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MCP, PFOR, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO SECDEF STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC  
TARGETING

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REF: (A) PARIS 1001

(B) STATE 12682

(C) STATE 20400

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL REACTION OF GOF OFFICIALS TO SECDEF STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC TARGETING HAS BEEN POSITIVE. SOME HAVE QUESTIONED, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS IS PRELUDE TO REDUCTION OF US NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE, EITHER VIA SALT OR MBFR. WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS QUESTION BE ADDRESSED BY US IN COURSE OF NAC CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH OFFICIALS AT QUAI, MOD, AND DEFENSE SECRETARIAT HAVE RAISED WITH US SUBJECT OF U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING AS DESCRIBED IN SECDEF'S COMMENTS OF JAN. 10. WE HAVE DRAWN ON EXPLANATION CONTAINED IN REF B WHICH OUR CONTACTS FOUND REASONABLE AND PERSUASIVE. GENERAL THRUST OF COMMENTS FROM THESE CONTACTS WAS ONE OF CONFIDENCE THAT TARGETING FORMULA DESCRIBED BY SECDEF WILL IMPROVE DETERRENCE AND, FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY EUROPEAN ALLIES.

3. RECURRING QUESTIONS CONCERNING SECDEF STATEMENT FOCUSED ON ITS TIMING (IN ADVANCE OF RESUMPTION OF SALT;; PRIOR TO DOD BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FY 75), CHOICE OF FORUM (INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS) AND POLITICAL GOALS (BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL). ONLY SOURCE NOTE STRUCK BY SEVERAL OF OUR QUESTIONERS WAS IMPLICATION THAT NEW TARGETING STRATEGY MIGHT BE LAYING GROUND WORK FOR U.S. TO NEGOTIATE FBS REDUCTIONS IN SALT OR REDUCTIONS OF U.S. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN CONTEXT OF MBFR.

4. SEVERAL CONTACTS ASKED WHETHER WE HAD CONSULTED WITH OUR ALLIES PRIOR TO SECDEF'S STATEMENT, TO WHICH WE REPLIED ALONG LINES PARA 3, REF B.

5. COMMENT: RE PARA 6, REF O, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RESPOND TO FRENCH CONCERN (I.E. THAT NEW TARGETING STRATEGY MIGHT BE PRECURSOR TO U.S. NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS, EITHER IN SALT OR IN MBFR). SAME CONCERN MAY OCCUR TO OTHER ALLIES. THEME STRUCK HERE BY GOF OFFICIALS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NEW TARGET COVERAGE DESCRIBED BY SECDEF MIGHT WELL (ONE SOURCE SAID "PROBABLY WILL") PERMIT U.S. TO PROVIDE COVERAGE BY US STRATEGIC FORCES OF TARGETS NOW COVERED BY EUROPEAN BASED U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES. IN THEIR VIEW THIS WOULD FREE U.S. TO MAKE REDUCTIONS IN ITS EUROPEAN NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENTS. THIS REFLECTS FRENCH PREOCCUPATION WITH FEAR THAT U.S. MAY SACRIFICE INTERESTS OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE TO SECURE BILATERAL ACCOMMODATION WITH USSR. SPECIFICALLY, FBS

REDUCTION OR REDUCTIONS IN U.S. TAC NUKE STOCKPILE VIA  
SALT OR MBFR WOULD SUGGEST TO FRENCH OBSERVERS POSSIBILITY  
THAT U.S. WAS DE-COUPLING ITS NUCLEAR FORCE FROM DEFENSE  
OF EUROPE.

6. WE WELCOME DECISION TO BRIEF ALLIES IN NAC (REF C),  
WHERE FRENCH ARE REPRESENTED. WE HOPE STATEMENT AND

Q'S AND A'S MENTIONED IN PARA 3, REF C WILL INCLUDE  
RESPONSE TO CONCERNS DESCRIBED IN PARA 5, ABOVE.STONE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY POLICIES, ICBM, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, NUCLEAR WARFARE, MISSILES, MILITARY PLANS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** FRENCH REACTION TO SECDEF STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC TARGETING  
**TAGS:** MCAP, PFOR, FR, US, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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